

(c) when the project is likely to be completed and start production?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). It would not be in the public interest to disclose this information.

(c) Phase I of the project is scheduled/ anticipated to be completed by June – 1993 and production is likely to commence in 1993.

### Revision of Price Index

3851. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several trade union organisations have raised objection to the fact that the price indices do not reflect the increase in prices of various items correctly;

(b) if so, whether the government propose to revise the method of preparing price indices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The current series of consumer price index numbers (CPI) for industrial workers with base 1982=100 was released in October, 1988, restructuring and modifying the earlier series with base 1960. This series has been constructed based on methodology decided by the Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL) under the chairmanship of the Director-general, Central Statistical Organisation, with professionals from concerned ministries as members. Detailed discussions and consultations were held with the representatives of trade union

organisations before the release of this series. A fresh Working Class Family Income & Expenditure survey is proposed to be conducted during 1992–93 to shift the base of the price index to 1992–93.

### Nhava sheva Port

3852. PROF. RAM KAPSE:  
SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA  
KHANDURI:  
SHIR SHARAD YADAV:  
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMANT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether allegations have been made regarding serious financial irregularities in Jawahar Lal Nehru (Nhava Sheva) Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount involved therein; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). In the Audit Report on the Annual Accounts of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for the year 1990–91, certain Audit objections were raised. These relate to short levy of shortage charges in respect of bulk cargo; avoidable expenditure due to incorrect estimation in respect of container freight station; improper certification of certain bills; avoidable project expenditure; wrong payment to a contractor in respect of main civil works etc. Audit observed that this has resulted in loss of revenue to the Port amounting to about Rs. 7.67 crores.

(d) The Audit objection was examined by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port authorities

who found that the objections were mostly technical in nature, and they have informed the Audit accordingly.

### **Import of Newsprint by S.T.C.**

3853. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has tied up import of 7,500 tonnes of newsprint from rupee-payment area countries;

(b) if so, whether any negotiations are going on for purchase of 5000 tonnes on rupee payment basis;

(c) the extent to which the S.T.C. has finalised a deal; and

(d) the countries from where the newsprint is proposed to be imported and the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). Recently, STC has finalised a deal with M/s. Exports, Moscow for import of 5,500 MTs newsprint for payment in non-convertible Indian Rupees, on the following main terms and conditions:—

- The Contract Price to be Rs. 13,500 PMT CIF, firm and final.
- The quality of newsprint paper to be in accordance with the sellers' Standard Brand.
- Payment to be based on the actual weight indicated in the Bill of Lading.
- Payment to be effected in Indian rupees by Draft free of interest drawn on the Bank in the Buyers'

country requiring payment to the Sellers not later than 45 days from the date of the corresponding Bill of Lading.

### **C.B.I. Raids on premises of Bank Employees**

3854. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

SHRI HARI KISHROE SINGH:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has raided the residential premises and offices of some bank employees on February 20, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount and documents seized; and

(c) the action taken against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that it has carried out searches at the residential/office premises of former Chairman and Managing Director of New Bank of India and 14 others (including 6 bank officials). According to the CBI it will not be in the public interest to disclose at this stage the details of the discoveries/detections/seizures made by it.

(c) CBI has registered R.C. No. 1/A/92-SIU(X) dated 31.1.92 against former Chairman & Managing Director and 6 officials of New Bank of India and others. Show-cause letters have been issued by the Bank to the concerned officers. Financial powers of two officers have also been withdrawn. One offi-